

Milestones in Hawai‘i and the Pacific

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has a long history in Hawai‘i and the Pacific dating back 145 years.

1862 - The first geodetic marker was installed in Honolulu on King Street.

1905 - The first tide station was established in Honolulu.

1940 - A weather station was established at the Honolulu Airport and the Weather Bureau began forecasting from the airport site in 1946.

August 14, 1940 - A weather station was established at Honolulu International Airport.

January 27, 1946 - The Weather Bureau Airport Station (WBAS) was established at Honolulu International Airport and began forecast operations.

July 14, 1946 - Hourly weather observations began at the WBAS.

1948 - The Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations office, now known as NOAA's Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, was established.

1949 - The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center was created.

1951 - The Mauna Loa Observatory, on the Big Island of Hawai‘i, was established and began studying carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, in 1958. It now has the longest running record of CO₂ measurements in the world.

June 1, 1957 - The WBAS began Central Pacific Hurricane Center (CPHC) operations.

1968 - The University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant College Program was jointly founded by NOAA and the University of Hawai‘i.

1975 - NOAA's Climate Monitoring and Diagnostic Laboratories opened in American Samoa. The labs measure atmospheric gases and trace elements used to determine climate trends and influences.

1977 - The Joint Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research (JIMAR) was created by an agreement between the Environmental Research Laboratories of NOAA and the University of Hawai‘i.

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1997-1984 - NOAA proposal for designation of a Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary. This initial request was suspended, however eventually succeeded.

November 4, 1992 - The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary was congressionally designated by the Hawaiian Islands National Marine Sanctuary Act.

1994 - The Pacific El Niño Southern Oscillation Applications Center (PEAC) was established as a research pilot project.

June 16, 1995 - Weather Forecast Office operations (except observations) moved from Honolulu International Airport to the Mānoa Campus of the University of Hawai‘i.

March 28, 1997 - With the approval of Hawaii’s Governor, the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary was fully designated in 1997.

2001 - The NOAA Pacific Services Center, located in downtown Honolulu, opened to support the development of regionally relevant services, products, and information to promote resilient and sustainable coastal and ocean communities, economies, and natural resources.

July 1, 2001 - The Weather Forecast Office in Honolulu becomes a World Meteorological Organization Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre.

August 28, 2002 - A World War II Japanese midget submarine was discovered, after 61 years, in Pearl Harbor by *Pisces IV*, an underwater submersible operated by NOAA’s Hawai‘i Undersea Research Laboratory.

2003 - The Pacific Islands Regional Integrated Science and Assessment program (Pacific RISA) was established.

July 15, 2004 - The Weather Forecast Office in Honolulu changes from 8 geographic zone areas and 2 geographic marine areas, to 28 and 24, respectively, to better serve the islands.

2005 - The NOAA Marine Debris Program was established by congressional appropriation.

August 2005 - The NOAA Integrated Data and Environmental Applications (IDEA) Center was established as part of the National Climatic Data Center.

January 19, 2006 - The Weather Forecast Office in Honolulu began issuing products with Valid Time Event coding.

February 1, 2006 - Point and Click Web forecasts became available for Hawai‘i on NOAA’s National Weather Service Web site.

December 22, 2006 - The NOAA Marine Debris Program was formally established with President Bush’s signing of the Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act into law.